

AMENDMENTS to the DRAWINGS

No amendments or changes to the Drawings are proposed.

REMARKS

Statement of Co-Assignment

We have noted the Examiner's instructions regarding proper filing future statements of co-assignment. We thank the Examiner for the entry of our statement by the Examiner.

Nature of Amendment

In the present amendment, we have amended claims 1, 2 and 5 directed towards method embodiments according to our invention, and we have cancelled all other pending claims from further consideration in this application. We are not conceding that the subject matter encompassed by the cancelled claims prior to this Amendment are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner. Amendment and cancellation of these claims are made solely to facilitate expeditious prosecution of at least a portion of allowable subject matter in this application. We respectfully reserve the right to pursue claims, including the subject matter encompassed by the cancelled claims, as present prior to this Amendment and additional claims in one or more continuing applications.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

We respectfully disagree with the Examiner's interpretation and rejections of our claims over Challapi in view of Richardson.

With particular respect to the teachings of Richardson, we believe that their disclosure teaches emoticons which would be culturally appropriate to the *author's or presenter's* culture, but not appropriate to a *recipient's culture* if there is a difference between the two cultures of the author/presenter and the recipient.

Our claims are directed towards *translating* emotional symbols from one culture to another culture in order to present emoticons to each recipient *according to the recipient's culture* when it is different from the *author's* culture. One example is that of Bulgarian's use of head shakes and nods for "yes" and "no" which are opposite those of most of the world (Please see Virtual_Tourist_Sofia, supplied in attached supplemental IDS).

For another example, please consider our illustration of counting on one's fingers. In the USA, the count of one culturally starts with the pointer finger, progresses to four on the little finger, and then five is counted on the thumb. However, in some other cultures, such as many European cultures, counting is started at one on the thumb, and continues across the hand to the little finger for a count of five. (Please note "Gestures" differences as described by Dr. Tidwell, supplied in attached supplemental IDS).

Now, please imagine a teleconference being presented by an American to several Europeans (e.g. recipients), related to our Figure 7. An American presenter says "First, we will look at the costs of the projects", and a hand gesture recognizer creates an emoticon of a hand with all fingers and the thumb curled except the pointer finger which is extended (e.g. an American first count hand gesture). We believe that according to the Richardson disclosure, a USA count-of-one hand gesture emoticon would be generated and transmitted to the European recipients, who would then be confused because they would interpret it as being a hand count gesture for two, not for one. Thus, they would perceive that the emoticon does not match or reflect the text or audio portion of the teleconference.

According to our claims, however, the cultural rules of the presenter and of each recipient are compared, and a

translation of the symbol or emoticon is performed if there is a cultural

difference. In our

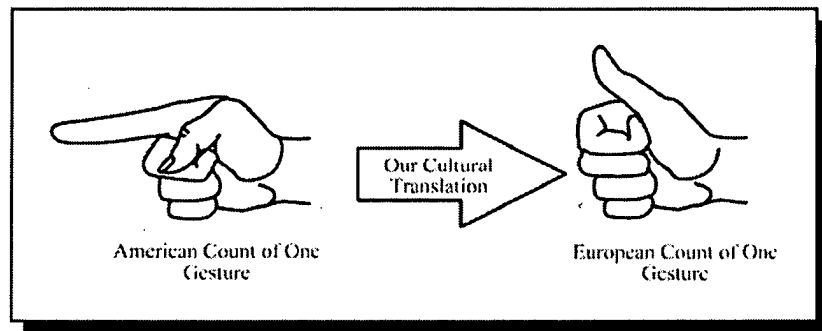
example, the pointer-finger-extended hand

emoticon would be

replaced with an emoticon

showing only a thumb

extended and all other fingers curled for each of the European recipients. In this manner, the emoticon is translated from a first culture to a second culture to consistently match the intended meaning of the emoticon, and to avoid inadvertent and inaccurate translations or misinterpretations of the emoticon for the presenter.



For these reasons, we believe Challapali in view of Richardson fails to recognize the cross-cultural problem, and thus fails to teach or suggest each step, element and limitation of our invention. Because neither Challapali or Richardson recognize the problem our inventions have recognize, we also respectfully submit that it therefore would not have been obvious to modify either Challapali or Richardson to meet the terms of our claims. We respectfully request allowance of our claims.

Request for Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

We believe we have responded to all grounds of rejection and objection, but if the Examiner disagrees, we would appreciate the opportunity to supplement our reply.

We believe the present amendment places the claims in condition for allowance. If, for any reason, it is believed that the claims are not in a condition for allowance, we respectfully request recommendations per MPEP 707.07(j) II which would place the claims in condition for allowance without need for further proceedings. We will respond promptly to any Examiner-initiated interviews or to consider any proposed examiner amendments.

Respectfully,

/ Robert Frantz /

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